

in a saying here is what we think are the reasonable cuts if we are going to achieve a balanced budget.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S 1995 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND RESCISSIONS OF AUTHORITY REQUEST ACT OF 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. 104-74)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 1995 Supplemental Budget and Rescissions of Authority Request Act of 1995. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the District's budget.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 1995.

□ 1330

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

**THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET IS A CUT IN MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to speak about the Republican budget and its effect on Medicare and Social Security. The assertion is trying to be made on the Republican side that this is not a cut. Well, I beg to differ. To the senior citizens of this country who have paid all their lives into this trust fund, it is a cut.

A cut is a reduction in services, an increase in premiums, an increase in copays and deductibles. So to the senior citizen out there, or to their family, you can call it anything you want to call it; it is a reduction in services. It is less than they expected to be able to get out of this very, very important program in their lives, and let us remember who we are affecting here. We are not just affecting the recipient of the program for the person that is enrolled in Medicare. We are affecting their entire family. The 30-, and 40-, and 50-year-old sons and daughters of these recipients of Social Security will have to make up the money if their parent cannot come up with it for the

copay, or the deductible or the increased premium, and remember that this increased premium will come out of their Social Security check. It is automatically deducted, so it is in effect a decrease in their Social Security monthly payment.

Mr. Speaker, we have got lots and lots of senior citizens around the country who live on their Social Security. It is the only thing they have to look forward to every month to pay their rent, to pay their heating bill, to pay for their food, and so that amount will be reduced. Let us also remember this budget calls for a reduction in the Social Security benefit. It calls for an arbitrary reduction in the cost of living escalator by over a half a percent a year beginning in 1999.

By the year 2002 it means a \$240 cut in their Social Security benefit. So, because of the Medicare cut which comes to about \$1,000 a person a year immediately, the \$240 cut in their Social Security benefit by the year 2002, these folks who are living on Social Security and their families who help support them are going to be out about \$1,240 a year that they now count on in order to get by.

Now let us remember that these programs are supported by taxes. There is no deficit in the Medicare trust fund. There is no deficit in the Social Security trust fund. There is more money coming into those trust funds today than is spent, and we believe that it is wrong to make up for problems somewhere else in the budget out of those trust funds, yet that is precisely what the Republican budget does.

They said proudly for days, "We're not going to touch Social Security; it's off the table." Well, it is on the table again in a big way, \$1,240 per person per year it is on the table, and that is not what was said. What was said before the budget came out was Social Security is off the table, it is not going to be cut.

And now we even see why it is being cut. It is being cut for a tax break. The Medicare cut almost equals the amount that is going out to give a tax break, a tax windfall, for the wealthiest people in the country.

So now we see the real value that is being expressed. A budget is an expression of values in its most important meaning. The value that the Republican Party is expressing in this budget is that it is fine to take dollars, \$1,240 a year ultimately, from the middle-income families of this country and transfer it to people making \$200, and \$300, and \$400 and \$500,000 a year so they can get a \$20,000-a-year tax break. We are going to take \$1,240 a year from middle-income families and families trying to stay in the middle class.

Is that our sense of values? Is that what we want to have happen in this country? I do not think so. I think what we want is to help middle-income families stay in the middle class, and that is what Social Security and Medicare have primarily been about.

This is not the right approach, this is not what we ought to be doing, and if you say the Social Security funds may not be stable and solvent 5 and 10 years from now, I say, "Fine, let's look at that. Let's look at the whole health care system as we do it, and let's not start this discussion by giving a \$20,000-a-year tax break to families earning \$250,000 a year. Let's put that off to the side. Let's save that one for later when we finally got enough money in the budget to consider things like that. But for right now let's talk about the real problems of our country: education, Medicare, Social Security, keeping those programs there for the middle-income people who paid their taxes their entire life. Let's not take it from them. Let's help strengthen those programs."

So I hope, as we go into this most important budget, this Republican budget represents the greatest change in U.S. budgets in many, many years. Let us have a full debate in this Congress about what is actually happening here. This budget will have direct significance, dramatic consequences, in the lives of average working American families. They deserve to know what this budget will do to them, and before we vote on it and cast votes for it or against it, let us let the people know what is in it. Let us let them participate in the debate. Then we can make a judgment. And I believe if that is done, we will make the right judgment, and the right judgment is not to invade Medicare and Social Security to give tax breaks to the people who have done the best in our country. That will not be our judgment, and I urge that, after this debate, we will make a better judgment, and we will make sure that Social Security and Medicare are not invaded, and that these cuts are not made to the middle-income people of this country simply to give a tax break to the people who have it made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. GRAHAM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GRAHAM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

**OSHA UNDER ATTACK**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, OSHA, the agency responsible for the health and safety of workers in this Nation, is presently under intense attack. Particularly my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD], who is a fellow member of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, has launched a relentless series of attacks on OSHA.